

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
AUGUST 21, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Jack Evenson, Chris Carruth, Dan Enderson, Mark Schreck, Nancy Maanum. Members Absent: None. Also present: Director of Finance Lisa Kent, City Clerk Valerie Alsaker, City Manager Kyle Harris, Police Chief Ian Hodge, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Assistant City Attorney Stephan Kowal, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Swift County HRA Director Leanna Larson and Reed Anfinson. Telephonically Kevin Bausman.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any additions to the agenda, to which there were none. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

It was moved by Enderson, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- August 10, 2023 City Council Minutes
- Charter Communications Channel Lineup Change
- Pioneerland Library System 3rd Quarter Pay Request - \$24,650.75
- Electronic Transfers:
 - Payroll: August 10, 2023 - \$138,128.71
 - July Journal Entries - \$2,401,535.81

Mayor Evenson asked for anyone with unscheduled business, to which there was no one.

Tweed said Nature Energy has postponed their visit until the September 18, 2023 meeting.

It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd Reading of a Resolution to Approve Interim Ordinance in a B-2 District. Enderson said he has had a lot of support on reviewing the zoning along this strip of land.

Tweed presented a request for funds in support of the Golf Club sponsored annual Rib Fest event on September 9, 2023. She went on to say our contribution last year was \$4,500. This year they are asking for \$5,000. However, she said MRES has a Community Event Sponsorship program. They will cost share with the City in the amount of \$2,500. The City's contribution comes out of the Tourism Funds. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve \$2,500 out of the Tourism funds for the Golf Club Rib Fest.

Next was a pay request from B. G. Amundson Construction for this year's concrete work. After discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the pay request from B. G. Amundson Construction for Concrete work in the amount of \$55,422.25.

Harris presented two pay requests from Stantec Engineering. The first is for the clearwell & pump station. Stantec's original cost for engineering services for the clearwell project was \$150,000, but Council approved additional engineering in May of 2022 not to exceed \$298,000. It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the Stantec pay request for work on the clearwell plant February – July 2023 in the amount of \$27,153.15.

Harris then presented another pay request from Stantec for GIS sharing to the public works Silversmith program. After discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request from Stantec in the amount of \$2,006.25.

Kent approached the Council to say the Line Crew and local contractors have been working on the new AMI load management boxes. We have made good progress on this part of the project however, we only have 40 boxes left and will be stopped unless we get more ordered. To date we have completed more than 700 of the 900 boxes. She presented a quote to order 150 more boxes at a cost of \$26,509.28. The lead time of these boxes is 14 weeks. This is not part of the bond we passed recently. Money will come out of the money allocated for contractor costs that have so far come in way under budget. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of 150 more load management boxes per the quote presented.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$686,638.81.

Harris said a property has come up for sale at 904 Atlantic Avenue next to the Liquor Store. Staff feels it is a good property to purchase for a possible liquor store off sale expansion. The house was listed for \$80,000. The City has made an offer of \$67,500, which was accepted by the seller and we have put down earnest money of \$750. The liquor committee had discussion last week on the house purchase and has brought it to the Council for discussion. The closing is set for October 6, 2023. There is no furnace in the house so winterization will be necessary. This is another house in a B-2 district. One option discussed was to remove the house and build the new store to the east of the current store, leaving it open until the new store would be finished. After discussion, it was moved by Maanum, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to direct staff to move forward with the purchase of the house at 904 Atlantic Avenue.

Larson approached to give an overview of the Small Cities Grant projects. She is the Swift County HRA/RDA Director and manages the residential portion of the Small Cities grant for the City. She discussed how the program works and said today we will be taking a tour of 14 residences to see how the program has helped homeowners. The Mayor declared a recess at 5:50 P.M. to go on the tour.

Upon returning from the tour, the Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6:49 P.M. There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Schreck seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk